SPORTS/ A29
RP netters clinch Davis Cup tie against Pakistanis



BUSINESS/ B1
BSP pushes sale of $1-B in bonds to OFWs

NEWS/ A2
UN special rapporteur arrives to look into RP political killings

ENTERTAINMENT/ G1
While sales slide, stars set to party at Grammys



Islamic jurists write sermon against terror

By Nash B. Maulana
Inquirer Mindanao

COTABATO CITY—THE GUARDIANS OF THE House of Opinion known as "muftis" have written a "khutba"—a year-round sermon to be read in mosques—supporting the government's anti-terror campaign.

Ustadz Abdullah Hamja Utto, the mufti of

ISLAMIC/A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, February 12, 2007 ★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 66 P18 online: www.inquirer.net

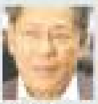
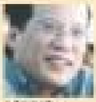
Did British star, flight attendant do it or not?

SYDNEY—BRITISH movie star Ralph Fiennes is at the center of a mile-high sex scandal after he allegedly became amorous with an Australian flight attendant during a long-haul flight, a report said Sunday.

DID BRITISH/A11

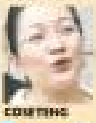


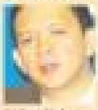
Team Unity	Opposition
Mix of Kampi, Lakas-CMD, NPC, LP	Alliance of old, new opposition figures

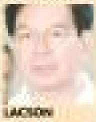

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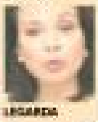
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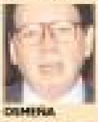
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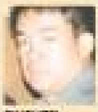
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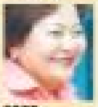
PETILLA

LEGARDA

PICHAY

OSMEÑA

RECTO

PANGILINAN*

SOTTO

PIMENTEL

ZUBIRI

ROCO

SINGSON

TRILLANES
?

VILLAR*

*GUEST CANDIDATE

Opposition fields full Senate lineup

GMA's Team Unity to name 12th candidate today

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.
and Christine O. Avendaño

CALLING ITSELF THE "Grand Coalition," the country's political opposition yesterday completed its power-packed senatorial lineup, pitting it against an administration ticket studded with fewer stars but backed by a nationwide machinery and Malacañang's political clout.

The opposition alliance finalized its slate with the inclusion of Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan of the Liberal Party, former Sen. Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng and detained Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes IV, who is facing mutiny charges.

Earlier, the opposition confirmed that its 12-member lineup would also have Senate President Manuel Villar.

Countering opposition moves, Malacañang announced yesterday that its so-called Team Unity ticket would now include independent Sen. Joker Arroyo and Nacionalista Party Sen. Ralph Recto, two lawmakers whose championing of opposition causes in the past had riled the Palace.

The last-minute maneuverings came on the eve of the deadline for the filing of senatorial candidacies.

While the opposition has completed its lineup in the race for 12 senatorial slots up for grabs in the May 14 polls, the administration has so far filled up only 11 slots.

Speaker Jose de Venecia said the 12th slot in the administration lineup would go to a yet unnamed Muslim figure.

Officially, the administration slate is called "TEAM (Together Everyone Achieves More) Unity."

OPPOSITION/A20



AMID bursts of confetti, lovers kiss at the "Lovapalooza" Valentine's Day celebration in Pasay City in an attempt to get into the world record books for biggest number of couples kissing simultaneously. AP

6,124 RP couples kiss to break world record

ONCE AGAIN, FILIPINOS ARE living up to their reputation as among the world's most romantic people.

More than 6,000 couples kissed simultaneously in a Manila parking lot at midnight on Saturday, and organizers of the event called Lovapalooza said they had set a world record.

"More than 6,000 this time, we broke the record," shouted Howard Reason, one of the organizers, as fireworks went off and confetti and heart-shaped red balloons filled the air.

A total of 6,124 couples kissed simultaneously for at least 10 seconds in a parking lot outside the Mall of Asia, said Albert Almendralejo, producer of the Lovapalooza.

An official tally showed that 6,124 couples kissed simultaneously, organizers said, but the number still needs to be verified by an independent audit and approved by Guinness World Record officials before it becomes an official world record.

The current record is held by 5,875 couples kissing at an event organized at the Elisabeth Bridge in Budapest, Hungary, on June 25, 2006.

Thousands of mostly young men and women gathered in the early evening at the mall by Manila Bay and danced

6,124 RP COUPLES/A11

Joker, Ralph defend joining GMA slate

By TJ Burgonio

TWO SENATE STALWARTS WHO HAD fought alongside the opposition defended yesterday their decision to run under Malacañang's senatorial slate, saying the country would be better off allowing President Macapagal-Arroyo to complete her term unless her opponents could offer a better alternative to impeaching her.

Saying that "in a crisis, one must take a stand," maverick Sen. Joker Arroyo and Sen. Ralph Recto of the Nacionalista Party confirmed they were joining the administration's Team Unity ticket.

"We ran for the Senate and won on the Arroyo administration slate. Nothing that has happened since gives us reason not to do the same in our reelection bid," they said in a joint statement.

Until yesterday, both Arroyo and Recto had kept their cards close to their chests, keeping silent on their political plans despite Palace statements that they would be part of the administration lineup in the May 14 senatorial election.

Recto had earlier indicated he might run as an independent.

In the 2001 polls, Arroyo ran as an independent and Recto as a Nacionalista.

Arroyo and Recto said they had crossed swords with Ms Arroyo over a number of major issues, including her order placing the country under an emergency rule.

JOKER/A11

GMA tantrum unwillingness to hear truth

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

THE CELEBRATED TEMPER OF PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo again grabbed front-page prominence last week when she rudely walked out on a press interview over questions that irritated her. It is not terribly important that the victim of her latest outburst is an Inquirer reporter. The object of her wrath could have been any reporter from another newspaper or radio or TV station.

Ms Arroyo's flare-ups are not big news any more. They are not unknown to those who have dealt with her—not least, her Cabinet members, political associates and senior bureaucrats, many of whom she has publicly humiliated and intimidated for telling her what she loathes to hear. The press should not be intimidated by these temperamental outbursts.

Rather, Ms Arroyo should be worried about her steady implosion. The media can cope with them, having successfully weathered more dangerous threats to

GMA TANTRUM/A23

KAMPI ALIGNMENT

Cebu, Bulacan govs leave Lakas

By Jolene R. Bulambot, Inquirer Visayas
Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon
and Michael Lim Ubac

THE GOVERNORS OF TWO VOTE-RICH provinces—Cebu and Bulacan—have bolted the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats over differences with the ruling party, but remain allied with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia has launched One Cebu, a party independent of Lakas, to thwart moves by opposition legislators to divide Cebu into four provinces.

Pablo John Garcia, the governor's brother, said One Cebu decided against affiliating with Lakas because the ruling party endorsed candidates in the 2004 elections who were not in the Garcia slate.

In Bulacan, outgoing Gov. Josefina de la Cruz and at least 21 mayors ditched the Lakas-CMD and transferred to the Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi), the President's party, saying the national leadership of Lakas failed to consult them on party decisions.

She said local Lakas members were not consulted when party leaders accepted the membership of Bulacan Rep. Pedro Pancho, a member of the opposition Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

"We were surprised by the decision," De la Cruz said. "We were promised that our voices would be heard [in Lakas]."

It was a different situation in Kampi, where, she said, she and the others were given due courtesy. "Kampi practices participatory decision-making," the governor said.

Kampi president Camarines Sur Rep.

CEBU/A12

Second FRONTPAGE

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
9 14 17 28 41 49
P10,155,742.08

WEATHER FORECAST

I'll make noise, UN prober vows

THE MESSAGE FROM THE UNITED NATIONS special rapporteur on extrajudicial killings and summary executions was unequivocal.

Two sessions

10-day trip

Validate allegations



Army opens poll offensive vs leftist party-list bets

Leave politics out of session—Bunye





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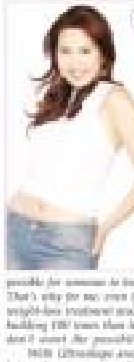
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INQUIRER

Dare to ask. Be an Inquirer.

Goodbye Lipo, Hello Ultrashape!









Villar raps order barring Erap visitors

Palace ruse

Overboard

Witnesses: Barbers started altercation

German strips at Naia

The Daily Gospel

Monday, February 12, 2007

Gun ban nets 315 arms, 182 persons

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE HAVE SO far confiscated a total of 315 loose firearms and arrested 182 persons caught violating the gun ban which took effect last month as part of the government's campaign to keep the coming May elections peaceful.

The firearms seized so far, as Philippine National Police spokesman [illegible], nationwide comprised 223 short firearms and 92 high-powered guns.

There are an estimated 300,000 loose firearms around the country.

The PNP has organized Task Force HOPE (Honest, Orderly and Peaceful Elections) to undertake the peace in the coming elections.

Region 4-A—composed of Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon—tallied the most number of recovered firearms and the most number of persons arrested for carrying unlicensed guns. Police in the region recovered 77 illegal firearms and arrested 62 persons.

The National Capital Regional Police Office (NCRPO) came in a distant second with only 19 loose guns confiscated and 47 persons arrested.

Western Visayas police seized some 20 guns and arrested 24 persons.

In the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), which the PNP had said had the biggest number of partisan armed groups, only 24 illegal guns were seized and 26 unauthorized gun holders were arrested. However, 17 of the illegal guns seized were high-powered ones.

The Commission on Elections declared a gun ban starting early last month, signaling the start of the election period.

Anyone who wants to carry a gun will have to get the necessary permit from the Comelec.

Meanwhile, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) reported the arrest of 43-year-old businessman [illegible] for possession of six guns and various ammunition.

CIDG operatives raided Castro's house in Golden City Subdivision in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, by virtue of a search warrant issued by an Imus, Cavite, judge. [illegible] was placed under arrest and has been charged with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

NPA guerrillas turn selves in hoping for better lives

By Nikko Dizon and Tarra Quismundo

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE, Pampanga—The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said it had scored a major victory against the Communist Party of the Philippines following the surrender of 12 members of its armed wing, the New People's Army based in Quezon.

"This is a major setback to the communist terrorists who continue to deceive and terrorize Filipino citizens with their acts of extortion and consequent criminal activities," said AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, in a message read by Air Force commanding general Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino.

Simple ceremonies marked the official return of the 12 NPA guerrillas—some of them female fighters—to the government fold here on Saturday.

Tolentino presided over the former rebels' taking of an oath of allegiance to the government.

The group surrendered in three batches since December last year to the Philippine Air Force 730th Combat Group under the 730th Special Operations Wing.

The 730th is the Air Force unit of the Southern Luzon Command based in Quezon.

"We surrendered to reform our lives, to take care of our families. We do not want to be part of the fight anymore. We want to be legitimate citizens who want to live quiet lives," said Ka Dennis in Filipino, speaking for the group of surrenderees, whose identities were undisclosed for security reasons.

The former rebels surrendered their rifles and pistols, grenades and ammunition, and materials to create IEDs (improvised explosive devices). They also turned in propaganda materials and a CPP-NPA flag.

"We have turned over our arms, and we did this as proof that we can no longer return to the communist party. Once we return to the mountains, they will kill us for sure ... And this is our guarantee that we are already with the government, that we want to live decently and quietly," Ka Dennis said in a brief interview with reporters.

Lt. Col. Manuel Gonzales, the combat group's commander, said the surrenderers included leaders from the Quezon-based Guerilla Front Command (GFC) 41 of the NPA's Southern Tagalog Regional Party Committee.

Tolentino said more rebels were expected to turn their backs on the communist party because of ongoing talks, pursued by military negotiators as part of the government's all-out unilateral peace campaign.

"We have a program ... that's responsible for enlightening these people ... to convince them that the life they are living is not the life they're supposed to have. There's a better life with the government," he said in a press briefing.

Tolentino said the military had "certain economic programs" that would help surrenderees be "assimilated in their new lives."

He also vowed to give protection to the former rebels, aware that the NPA might be out to get them.

"There's really no guarantee, but we are doing our best to protect them ... wherever they are going. But the places they will go are friendly areas, so we believe nothing bad will happen to them," Tolentino said.

Ka Dennis hoped the military would deliver on this promise and more.

He asked: "We hope that as surrenderees, the government will give our families a livelihood."

Leviste lawyers to seek new judge

ACCUSING THE PRESIDING judge of bias, lawyers of Antonio Leviste today will fight to transfer the former Batangas governor's controversial murder case to another court against a tough challenge from a prosecutor.

A fierce face-off is expected to unravel today at the sala of Makati Judge Elmo Alameda, with opposing lawyers arguing their positions on a motion seeking to inhibit the judge.

Alameda is hearing the criminal case against Leviste, lodged against him for the fatal shooting of his trusted aide, Rafael de las Alas, on Jan. 12.

"There's going to be a hearing on our motion for inhibition. It depends on the judge ... But it's obvious that he's going to deny it because he does not want to let go of the case. He likes the media mileage," said Leviste's lawyer, Henry Capela.

State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, who had moved to have the charge against Leviste upgraded from homicide to murder, promised to strongly argue in favor of the judge.

"I am opposing the motion to inhibit the judge, not principally to defend the judge, whose decisions in the cases he has heard are the best proof of his unquestionable integrity, but primarily for an effective and efficient criminal justice system," said Velasco.

In seeking to recuse Alameda, Leviste's lawyers claimed the judge was inclined to accept the prosecution because he had approved the request of the family of De las Alas that the Department of Justice review the case.

The victim's family had asked for a reinvestigation, contending that Leviste should face the heavier offense of murder and not homicide. *Tarra Quismundo*











Plant bamboo to save RP forests, export to China

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—A LOCAL foundation has been promoting the large-scale planting of bamboo to boost the government's reforestation efforts and to produce a resource which the country can sell to China.

Edgar Manda, former general manager of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, has been touring the country with members of the Philippine Bamboo Foundation promoting bamboo as a way to revive denuded Philippine forests.

Recent news about climate change has made bamboo culture one of the priorities of the government, according to Manda, presidential assistant for Northern Tagalog.

The world's scientists have confirmed the onset of global warming. Rebuilding the country's forest cover in 10 years would be the government's contribution to international efforts to curb climate change.

According to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, 53 percent or 15.88 million hectares of the country's 30-million-ha land mass is classified as forest land.

Some 1.4-million-ha of forests in the Cordillera are undisturbed, although mining and logging activities have taken their toll on most of the region's forest cover.

The country, however, will need to be convinced to go into large-scale bamboo farming.

Minor role

Rogelio Bilad, a Baguio-based artist, said bamboo continues to play a minor role in the the farming and hunting cultures of the Cordillera.

Bilad presented a paper on the Cordillera's bamboo culture in Zhejiang, China, during an international training workshop last year on bamboo industrial processing technologies.

He said bamboo was used in kaiban, bagaking (vegetable baskets), a favorite implement among Benguet farmers. There was no evidence, however, that the region cultivated bamboo to produce weapons or other industrial products.

He noted that Abra was the only region where bamboo was considered prominent in its culture.

Grass, not tree

Bilad said bamboo was not technically a tree but a species of tree-like grass that matures within four years.

Manda, who was at the Zhejiang workshop with Bilad, said China's bamboo supply would need replenishing in five years and it would start importing the product from the Philippines.

In his report, Bilad said: "China is the biggest bamboo producer of the world ... and the center of world bamboo diversity with 500 different bamboo species."

He quoted Chinese experts at the workshop pointing out that China had experienced massive forest denudation and started a massive and successful reforestation program in 1979 using bamboo.

China's experience proved that bamboo cultivation, when harnessed well, could "unlock the solution to poverty — and environmental [instability]," Bilad said in his report.

Big bamboo

According to Manda, China's annual bamboo production "exceeds eight million tons, [which is] equivalent to eight million cubic meters of wood."

He said this enabled China to export $95 billion (P4.56 trillion) worth of byproducts in 2005 and its bamboo industry is now worth $4.5 billion (P216 billion).

Because world demand for the resource has exceeded China's supply, it will soon have to start importing bamboo from its Asian neighbors.

Manda has been meeting with local officials to convince them to invest in bamboo, but he is focusing his efforts on Benguet and Mt. Province because of the areas' cooler climate.

Kin of slain lawmaker reject claim NPA killed him















UP students seek probe of fee hike

'New rules won't help domestics'


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Joker, Ralph defend joining GMA slate



ARROYO

Military adventurers

Economy looking up

Wednesday Group

Difficult decision

Why priests seen to attract women

By Christian V. Esguerra

Counseling session

Power relationship

'Wounded healers'

For good

Edification

Did British star, flight attendant do it or not?

6,124 RP couples kiss to break world record

Naga City cited as country's 'most friendly to children'

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

Numerous awards

Hall of Fame

Universal access

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Erap's withdrawal

EDITORIAL



No talk, no mistake

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Apocalypse

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

The dismissal epidemic

Sounding Board



Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

God be with you, Nandy

Reveille



Ramon J. Farolan

Remembering

Kris-Crossing Mindanao



Noralyn Mustafa

Team Bansot

The Long View



Manuel L. Quezon III

They Said

Guarantee lessons

It's time for world's citizens to address global warming

[illegible]

—REV. GILBERT S. [illegible]

CRM-generated printout is as good as official receipt

[illegible]

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE

MY BELOVED COUNTRYMEN:

The coming May election is a very important historical opportunity for you to change the course of our country's political history. It is an opportunity for you to express through your votes the strong disapproval of the GMA administration which you have been repeatedly manifesting in the series of opinion polls conducted over the past three years.

Some people have been trying to bill this coming election as a proxy fight between GMA and Erap but to me this is not a GMA-Erap fight but a struggle between those who are for good governance and accountability and those who support a cheating, lying, stealing, and oppressive administration which has made your lives more miserable than before.

The UNO, as you know, is the coalition of opposition forces that is forming a senatorial ticket to fight the administration's senatorial candidates. To avoid the suspicion that I am the UNO's godfather, I intentionally decided not to play an active role in the UNO process of selecting the opposition's senatorial candidates. As a result, even those politicians who had been active in attacking and impeaching me in the past have now been included in the opposition's senatorial lineup.

The UNO's selection process also resulted in the inclusion of my son, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, not on the basis of my intervention but rather on the basis of his sterling qualifications, accomplishments, and high rankings in the poll surveys. Like any father, this of course made me very proud and happy but at the same time it made me feel uneasy because I did not want UNO leaders to think that my support for the UNO ticket would be contingent on JV's inclusion. Earlier, the UNO had also wanted to include my wife Loi in the ticket as a reelectionist, but Loi and I decided that she should give up her reelection bid for the greater good of the opposition.

Since the inclusion of JV's name in the tentative UNO senatorial ticket, some people have thrown brickbats at me and questioned my moral leadership to lead the opposition but I kept quiet and bided my time because I wanted to see the dynamics of the opposition's selection process played out to the last minute, to find out who would remain true-blue, principled oppositionists and who would show themselves up as self-seeking opportunists.

Now that the UNO selection process is almost complete, I would like to announce that I have asked my son, JV Ejercito, to withdraw from the UNO's senatorial slate and to run instead for reelection as San Juan Mayor and that JV has consented to sacrifice his senatorial aspirations in the meantime for the good of the opposition and our country.

As a loving father, I have spent sleepless nights agonizing between a father's wish to see his son attain his political ambition to serve our people at the national level and my desire to ensure the formation of a broad, strong, and united coalition of anti-GMA forces in the coming election. In the end, my desire to serve the greater interest of our people prevailed over my paternal feelings and so I decided to ask JV to withdraw from the senatorial race. And I am proud to say that JV willingly agreed to do so to give way for a broader representation in the opposition's senatorial ticket.

This decision of mine and JV's, incidentally, was not made in response to the "political dynasty" issue that has been raised by some people as a "moral" issue. That is why I am not calling on Alan Peter Cayetano or Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel to follow JV and withdraw from the senatorial race too. In the first place, the series of poll surveys on "senatoriables" are proving this dynasty issue to be a non-issue or a false issue among Filipino voters. According to the latest Pulse Asia survey, Alan Peter Cayetano is ranked No. 4, JV is ranked No. 9 (up from the previous ranking of No.11), and Koko Pimentel is ranked No. 10. To me, this dynasty issue is being played up by Malacañang and its lackeys as part of its rapid tactics to deflect attention from the growing Macapagal-Arroyo conjugal dynasty.

In conclusion, I must again reemphasize the importance of the coming election to the future of our country, our children, and our grandchildren. I call on all of you to elect senators, congressmen, and local officials who oppose the policies of the GMA administration, who question her legitimacy, and who will hold her accountable for all the cheating, lying, stealing, oppression, and other wrongs that her administration has inflicted on our people. You must also be vigilant and militant about guarding your vote. Remember that this administration's cheating machinery is still in place. Let us neutralize this cheating machinery to insure that the true voice of the people will be heard loud and clear.

I have always been for the people, I will always be for the Filipino people. And if this means fighting an illegitimate regime, I will fight it with the last breath I have.

God bless our country! Mabuhay ang Pilipino!



PRES. JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA

Tatad explains 'The Moral Force'

[illegible]

—FRANCISCO S. TATAD

Fare overpricing by airport taxis

[illegible]

Across the NATION

Duterte OKs ban on aerial spraying

DAVAO CITY—AGRICULTURE SECRETARY Arthur Yap failed to persuade Mayor Rodrigo Duterte from approving the city council resolution seeking a ban on aerial spraying in banana plantations when the two officials met here on Friday.

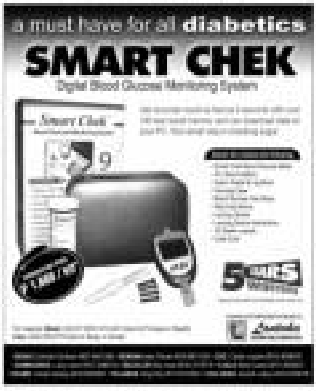
[illegible]

Escaped Cotabato prisoners hunted; 1 dead, 2 captured

[illegible]

Sorsogon bishop bucks DENR decision on Lafayette

[illegible]





ROUNDUP

Woman, son die in blast

[illegible]

Mobile cars for ARMM cops

[illegible]

Diarrhea outbreak in Sorsogon City

[illegible]

Donations for child with heart problem

[illegible]



400 farmers take over land in Pampanga



TESTING THE WATER

Farmer leader hacked in Bondoc Peninsula

Priests to help mother of girl found dead in fire

Accusations

Help

Movement for Justice

Medico-legal

Groups score incinerator's test run

Pangasinan mayors ask PNP not to remove police chief

Why 'Kiko' is 'going solo'

By Cynthia D. Balana

More committee reports

Can't go Erap

Opposition fields full Senate lineup

The protagonists

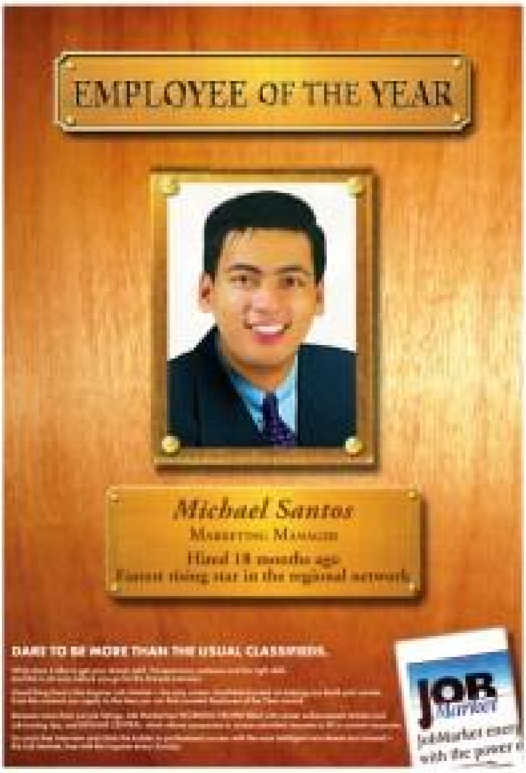
A balanced team

3 women

'Ranked country'









NO DEAL!

Farmers decry agri deals with China

FARMERS belonging to various organizations demanded the junking of the 19 agreements entered into by Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap with various Chinese firms which they said were tantamount to "selling off national patrimony and food security."

In a picket-rally in front of the Department of Agriculture offices in Quezon City, leaders of the Ugnayan ng Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (UNORKA), Alliance for Rural Concerns, Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM), Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD) and FoodFirst Information Action Network (FIAN-Philippines) said the agreements recently brokered by Yap with the Chinese seriously jeopardizes the interest of the country.

They said allowing the Chinese to use 1.24 million hectares of land in the Philippines to raise rice, corn, sorghum, vegetables and other crops for China's consumption violates the agrarian reform law and reverses attempts at attaining food security through self-sufficiency in production.

"Where would Yap get the 1.24 million hectares he wants to give away to the Chinese? There are no more idle alienable and disposable public lands. If there are, these should be made available first and foremost to the landless Filipino farmers. Yap may have to give away the farms already being tilled by our farmers," said the joint statement of the three organizations.

They said that since the crops that will be grown by the Chinese would be for their exclusive consumption, the supply of locally-produced food for Filipino consumers will be greatly impaired. "We may have to buy from the Chinese food products that are ironically produced in our own land. It is the classic case of gisigisa lang sa sariling mantika," they said.

They said Filipinos have nothing to gain from the agreements. "It should be noted that the P19-billion Yap said the Chinese will invest here would be used by the Chinese to grow food products for themselves. Thus the investments are for themselves, not the Filipinos," they stressed.

They also said that because the Chinese would be using intensive farming methods, they would not care about the environmental degradation they would cause on the lands. "Our future generation will be left with poisoned barren lands," they added.

"The deal is worse than the RP-US Military Bases Agreement, which the Filipino people junked," the farmers said.



NO DEAL. Farmers, fishers and their allies cry foul over the 19 agriculture deals with China in a demonstration in front the Department of Agriculture offices in Quezon City. They said the deals are tantamount to selling off of the national patrimony, by granting rights to China to use 1.24 million hectares of Philippine farmlands to produce food for China's booming population.

Fishers rap Yap on Chinese poachers release

SMALL fishermen belonging to the Pangisdaan Alyansa ng Mangingisda ng Pilipinas (PANGISDA-Pilipinas) called for the ouster of Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap for allegedly causing the release and non-filing of charges against 30 Chinese fishermen caught poaching recently at the Tubbataha Reef Park in Palawan.

The group said the release of the Chinese fishermen was a "sweetener" to the 19 deals entered into by Yap with China, which include the leasing off of 1.24 million hectares of land to the Chinese. China would use the lands to produce food like rice, corn, sorghum and vegetables for its booming population.

There were earlier reports that the Chinese embassy in Manila wrote to Yap and Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo for the immediate release of the Chinese poachers who were caught last December with live Napoleon wrasse (mameng), an endangered species, explosives and toxic substances. The fishermen said they received reports that Yap allegedly interceded on behalf of the Chinese.

Even the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF-Philippines) also earlier asked for deeper investigations over the incident, warning that the poachers could be part of an organized crime syndicate. A local judge ordered the release of the Chinese after being detained for only a few hours.

The case became even more controversial after local authorities in Palawan where the poachers were caught alleged that Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez ordered the provincial prosecutor's office not to file charges against the Chinese. Gonzalez denied the allegations.

According to the fishermen, Yap worked out the release of the Chinese poachers to appease visiting Chinese officials led by Prime Minister Wen Jiabao.

The group also decried agreements signed by Yap which allows China virtual access to Philippine fishing grounds in the guise of fishery breeding and culture. Among the 19 agreements entered into by Yap with China calls for the commercial raising of groupers, abalone, sea cucumbers, sea urchins, seaweeds and other high-value marine species.

"With the agreements brokered by Yap, the Philippines will become a mere garden and fishpond for China. Poaching will no longer become an issue because China would be in virtual control over our seas and waters," the fishermen said.

Yap hit on coco levy fund use

COCONUT farmers belonging to the Ugnayan ng Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (UNORKA) yesterday told Department of Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap to lay off from the controversial coconut levy fund.

UNORKA revealed that Yap recently got authorization from the President to use the Coconut Industry Development Fund (CIDF) to rehabilitate coconut farms in Bicol and Marinduque that were destroyed by recent typhoons.

The group warned that "Yap's intent on the CIDF has always been suspect." They recalled that Yap tangled with and maneuvered to oust then Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Administrator Evangeline Vallesteros "because he wanted to dip his fingers on the CIDF."

"Yap is using the recent typhoons that devastated Bicol as an excuse to get his hands at the CIDF money. He recently asked for and was granted authority to use the CIDF supposedly to rehabilitate coconut farms in Bicol and Marinduque destroyed by recent typhoons," the group said.

"While tens of thousands of people affected by the typhoons suffer, Yap is drooling over the opportunity to finally control the disposition of the coconut levy funds, in the name of the suffering Bicolanos," UNORKA added.

UNORKA also assailed Yap for "selling off the national patrimony and food security" by entering into 19 agreements with China that allows the Chinese to use some 1.24 million hectares of land to produce food for its booming population.

The group said Yap is violating the spirit of the agrarian reform program. They said that instead of giving lands to the landless Filipino farmers, Yap is giving lands to foreigners.

"We rejected corporate farming schemes because food companies would be allowed to amass wide tracts of lands. We are also breaking up large landholdings of the haciendero, but Yap is giving control to foreigners more than one million hectares of land," the group said.

Under the agreements, Filipinos would only be farm workers, lowly tenants and serfs all over again. Worse, they will be serving foreign masters this time," the group added.

Stop the sell-out of our national patrimony and food security to China!

IMMEDIATELY after he maneuvered himself back to power at the Department of Agriculture (DA), Secretary Arthur C. Yap wasted no time in selling off to the Chinese the patrimony and food security of the country.

He recently made 19 deals with China, which he negotiated even as he has yet to officially assume office in November last year. The deals allow China to use about 1.24 million hectares of land to produce rice, corn, sorghum, vegetables and other crops exclusively for the consumption of China's booming population.

The agreements also virtually allow full access by China to the country's waters and fishery resources, the guise of research and processing projects. In fact, through the reported intercession of Yap, 30 Chinese fishermen caught poaching in the protected waters of Tubbataha Reef Nature Park with live endangered fish species were immediately released, and the charges against them were reportedly dropped.

Where would Yap get the 1.24 million hectares that he wants to give away to the Chinese? There are no more idle alienable and disposable public lands. If there are, these should be made available first and foremost to landless Filipino farmers. The President has been emphatic on new lands to be opened. "We should give the landless farmers the first option to be there, as part of land reform," she said recently in Bago City.

Yap may have to give away the farms already being tilled by our farmers.

In the past we have rejected the corporate farm schemes of local companies that would have allowed them to amass wide tracts of land. Through the agrarian reform program, albeit defective, we are trying to break up the large landholdings of the haciendero.

But with the stroke of his pen, Yap is giving away more than a million hectares to foreigners, without even consulting with the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) which is still struggling in implementing the defective Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

Since the crops that will be grown by the Chinese would be for their exclusive consumption, the supply of locally-produced food for Filipino consumers will be greatly impaired. We may have to buy from the Chinese food products that are ironically produced in our own land. It is the classic case of gisigisa lang sa sariling mantika.

By disabling the country to produce its own food, Yap is actually reversing everything that most of his predecessors at the DA tried to do – which was to strengthen national food security through self-sufficiency in the production of basic food commodities.

In proudly announcing and crowing about his treasonous deals, Yap tries to bedazzle us with the supposed investments by the Chinese in Philippine agriculture and fisheries. He said the 19 deals would bring in P19.2 billion in Chinese investments. But it should be noted that the P19-billion would be used by the Chinese to grow food products for themselves. Thus the investments are for their own benefit, not the Filipinos.

If at all, the Filipinos would only be farm workers, lowly tenants and serfs all over again. Worse, they will be serving foreign masters this time.

Because the Chinese would be using intensive methods, they would not care about the environmental degradation they would cause on the lands, which they would abandon anyway after their lease agreements shall have expired. Our future generation will be left with poisoned barren lands.

Yap had the gall and gumption to declare that he was able to get 2,000 square meters of space from the Jiangnan Wholesale Market for Philippine fruit products – in exchange of 1.24 million hectares of Filipino land, not mention our waters. But he could give away to the Chinese!

During his controversial first stint as DA secretary, Yap tangled with and maneuvered to oust then Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Administrator Evangeline Vallesteros because he wanted to dip his fingers on the Coconut Industry Development Fund (CIDF). Now that he also succeeded in grabbing back his former post as DA secretary, Yap may just succeed in controlling the coconut levy funds.

Yap is using the recent typhoons that devastated Bicol as an excuse to get his hands at the CIDF money. He recently asked for and was granted authority to use the CIDF supposedly to rehabilitate coconut farms in Bicol and Marinduque that were destroyed by recent typhoons. While tens of thousands of people affected by the typhoons suffer, Yap is drooling over the opportunity to finally control the disposition of the coconut levy funds, the name of the suffering Bicolanos.

WE ARE THUS calling for the junking of the agreements made by Yap with the Chinese that seriously jeopardizes the interest of the country. He should be made accountable for entering into one-sided agreements that are tantamount to selling off the country's national patrimony and food security. These are serious charges that should result in his ouster as DA secretary, and the filing of appropriate charges against him.

Yap should also be divested from the control and disposition of the coconut levy funds, which belong to the coconut farmers. Yap's intent on the CIDF has always been suspect.

Likewise, he should be made accountable for the mysterious release of the Chinese poachers who were caught in Tubbataha Reef, a world heritage no less. We dread thinking that poaching would be tolerated in the same manner as smuggling of agriculture and food products proliferated during Yap's watch at the Department of Agriculture.

In order to protect our issues, which we believe are most relevant, we are forced to buy space to let our people know of the repercussions of the deals entered into by Secretary Yap with China.

Alliance for Rural Concerns (ARC), Ugnayan ng Nagsasariling Organisasyon sa Kanayunan (UNORKA), FoodFirst Information and Action Network-Philippines (FIAN-Philippines), Alternative Community-Centered Organization for Rural Development (ACCORD), Katipunan ng mga Samahang Manininda ng Pilipinas (KASAMA-Pilipinas), Pangisdaan Alyansa ng Mangingisda ng Pilipinas (PANGISDA-Pilipinas), Pambansang Katipunan ng Makabayang Magbubukid (PKMM), ALAB KATIPUNAN, League of Urban Poor for Action (LUPA), Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya (KPD), Pilipino Democratic Movement (PDM), AGAPE-Southern Tagalog, Quezon Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (QUARRDS), Rural Aggrupation for Empowerment and Rural Development (RAGARD, Inc.), PROGRESSO-Bicol, Negros Occidental Federation of Farmers Association, Mindanao Farmers Development Center (MFDC), UNORKA-Mindanao, PADAYON, Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda, Asosasyon ng Mangagawa sa Agrikultura (SAMAMA-AMA), Pambansang Koalisyon ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan-Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Calatagan (PKSK-SAMMAC-R)

Cebu, Bulacan governors leave Lakas

From page A1

Luis Villafuerte said Garcia and De la Cruz had sought the endorsement of Kampi.

"They have a proposal to align with Kampi. But we have not accepted them yet. An arbitration committee will decide on that," Villafuerte said.

Infighting

Lakas and Kampi—the two biggest parties in the administration coalition—have been rivals with infighting, prompting Ms Arroyo to step in last week.

The President ordered the formation of an arbitration panel to solve conflicts between coalition members running for the same post in the local government or in Congress.

Other members of the ruling coalition are the Nationalist People's Coalition and the Liberal Party wing of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Villafuerte called an emergency meeting of coalition leaders today to discuss the realignment of their forces.

Speaker Jose de Venecia, Lakas national president, said there was no exodus of Lakas local officials to Kampi.

Party switching expected

De Venecia said party-switching within the "grand coalition of parties" was expected and would not hurt the administration's chances in the midterm elections on May 14.

"We're losing two governors, but we just got 12 governors three weeks ago," said the Speaker to editors reached by phone while inaugurating several infrastructure projects in his native Pangasinan.

Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr. of Surigao del Sur downplayed the move by the governor of Cebu, which gave Ms Arroyo a one-million lead over the late opposition presidential standard-bearer Fernando Poe Jr. in the 2004 presidential election.

Immaterial

Pichay, an administration senatorial candidate, said Garcia's move was "immaterial" because all coalition members were solidly behind the leadership of the President.

He said movements within the coalition were expected because of local politics, but at the end of the day, "all coalition members will support administration bets, especially the members of the Unity Ticket senatorial slate."

Opposition Rep. Rolex Suplico of Iloilo has a different take on Garcia and De la Cruz's defection to Kampi.

"The May elections are, among others, a political fight between Kampi and Lakas. This has already started this early as proven by the transfer of Lakas congressmen to Kampi," said Suplico in a phone interview.

At the launching of One Cebu on Saturday, Garcia stressed the need for Cebuanos to be unified against attempts to divide Cebu.

Three opposition members of the House of Representatives earlier filed separate bills seeking to create three more provinces.

The so-called "Cebu split" bills have been strongly opposed not just by Garcia and her allies but also by the business sector, civil society and the Catholic Church.

Recently, Cebuano anti-Cebu split legislators led by Rep. Eduardo Gullas (1st district) announced that the three bills filed by Representatives Clavel Asas-Martinez (4th district), Antonio Yapha (3rd district) and Simeon Kintanar (2nd district) were shelved due to lack of basis.

Martinez's bill calls for the creation of a Cebu del Norte province comprising the towns of the fourth district and with Bogo as the capital.

Yapha, backed by former Sen. John Osmeña, wants an Occidental Cebu province, to consist of the towns in the third district with Toledo City as the capital.

Kintanar wants his district made into Cebu del Sur with Argao as the capital.

Garcia's advocacy to prevent Cebu from being split into four provinces have gained support from local officials and political leaders.

At least 577 local politicians in Cebu from mayors down to the councilors took their oath as members of One Cebu on Saturday during which they elected Garcia to be the party president for a three-year term.

Of the 47 municipalities in Cebu, only the elected officials of Tabuelan and Sta. Fe towns did not attend Saturday's mass oath-taking.

Two political blocs in Cebu are not joining the alliance under One Cebu—the Barug Alang sa Kauswagan ug Demokrasya (Bakud), the dominant political party in the fifth district led by the Durano clan, and the Alayon party headed by Gullas.

Second-class citizens

Gullas and Bakud leaders led by Rep. Red Durano, however, were guests at One Cebu's launching to show of support for Garcia's campaign against attempts to divide Cebu.

Guiguinto Mayor Ambrosio Cruz Jr., president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines' chapter in Bulacan, lamented the Lakas decision to accept Pancho into the party.

"We are treated as second-class citizens in Lakas," Cruz said. "We are not consulted on the decisions of the party."

The Inquirer tried but failed to reach Pancho for comment on Sunday.

De la Cruz's brother

But a provincial board member said another major reason De la Cruz's group bolted Lakas was the party's decision not to endorse the gubernatorial bid of her brother, Board Member Joselito Andrew Mendoza.

De la Cruz declined to comment on this.

Other local officials said Lakas would support the gubernatorial bid of former Gov. Roberto Pagdanganan, chair of the Philippine International Trading Corp.

Pagdanganan earlier expressed confidence that Lakas would endorse him as its official candidate for governor.

De la Cruz said 21 of 24 mayors and nine board members, who joined her in Kampi, had endorsed her brother's candidacy.

She said the mayors had promised to support Mendoza, president of the Association of Barangay Captains in Bulacan, regardless of their party affiliation.

Mendoza said he, his running mate, Senior Board Member Wilfredo Aniag, and local officials who would join his slate would take their oath as Kampi members before Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Kampi president, today.

Difficult situation

Villafuerte acknowledged that the situation in Bulacan, an administration bailiwick, was "very difficult."

"All three contending forces are all for GMA (President Arroyo)—Josie, Obet Pagdanganan and Bulacan Rep. Wilhelmino Sy-Alvarado," he said.

Villafuerte said the first meeting of the arbitration committee would be today or Tuesday. "But that will not resolve anything. It will come up with a statement of principle."

Other members of the committee are De Venecia, Iloilo Rep. Michael "Jack" Duavit, secretary general of the NPC and Atienza of the LP. *With a report from Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas*



CEBU Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia (second, from left) and Vice Gov. Greg Sanchez (in her left) lead allies during the launching of One Cebu party.

GMA tantrum unwillingness to hear truth

Battle for control of news

Root of conflict

Economics is 'safe'

Islamic jurists write sermon against terror

Antiterror bill

Safeguards

Rules of engagement

SPORTS

Beermen take 2-0 lead



Unconventional play helps SMB nip Ginebra

By Musong R. Castillo

EVEN COACHES WIN GAMES—CONTRARY TO what the old adage says.

Late Sports

More Sports stories on A29 to 32

Que ties for 11th spot

Aplus **METRO**
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

2 cops shot dead in Rizal

By Erlan C. Tenebro Jr.?

FOUR MEN RIDING ON TWO MOTORCYCLES shot to death two policemen [illegible] in Taytay, Rizal yesterday afternoon.

[illegible]

Marikina City opens new 2-km bike lane

By Erlan C. Tenebro Jr.?

TO FURTHER ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS TO turn to bikes [illegible]

[illegible]

METRO Citizen's call

0918-0000566?

[illegible]

Citizen's call



DARK AND DREARY

Life comes up roses for this flower vendor



Making a point

Faith in God

Endearing personality

₱1 hike in movie tickets mulled

DID YOU KNOW

STATEMENT

Of

SENATORS JOKER P. ARROYO AND RALPH G. RECTO

10 February 2007

We ran for the Senate and won on the Arroyo administration slate. Nothing that has happened since gives us reason not to do the same in our reelection bid.

We have opposed the President on many major issues, before the Supreme Court no less. And we won.

We fought the Venable contract which involved American money to change the Constitution. We fought the People's Initiative to do the same. We fought the emasculation of Congress by EO 464 and put the PCGG back under the law when it tried to rise above it. We fought Proclamation 1017, which curtailed freedom of assembly and freedom of the press.

We have reported out and condemned anomalous deals and contracts involving PIATCO, the TAX CREDIT scandal, NAPOCOR and MASINLOC biddings, the BOLANTE fertilizer scam and others. We never allowed our committees to be used for harassment or any other purpose than to find the truth.

Yes, the administration has committed grave blunders. But through all these, the President never tried to dissuade us from opposing her.

Why then should we not run again in the administration Senate slate? It has never tried to undermine our independence or bind our conscience or stand in the way of what we believed had to be said and done. It has respected if it did not always enjoy our roles as senator.

In a crisis, one must take a stand.

The opposition want to impeach the President. That is their constitutional prerogative. But one has yet to hear the opposition denounce attempts by military adventurers to topple the government and set up another one outside the Constitution. They have steadfastly refused to recognize the constitutional succession of the Vice-President.

In short, the opposition want to write their own ticket and take back power on the broken back of the Constitution.

That is unacceptable on our part and self-contradictory on theirs. They fought, commendably, the foul attempt to change the Constitution but they will not uphold the Constitution.

The economy is improving. Inflation and unemployment are dropping. True, the rich are getting richer and these improvements have yet to be felt by the vast majority of the poor. But no question, little by little, the people are getting better off.

The opposition have yet to explain what part they intend to play if they achieve their ambition in this midterm election. No one can deny that the country is moving forward. The political choice in the coming election is to trip up the country or help it along.

On balance, until the opposition can offer something more than the impeachment of the President, the country is better off letting this administration complete the work it is doing while keeping a close watch on anything else it may attempt.

The WORLD

Putin says US out to dominate world

MUNICH, GERMANY—RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin has attacked the United States as a reckless power that has made the world more dangerous by pursuing policies that have led to war, ruin and insecurity.

AFP



PUTIN

WorldBriefs

Ground-breaking study on diabetes identifies genes

AFP

New setback stalls N. Korea nuke talks

Obama officially announces US presidential campaign

AP

So too does Giuliani



GIULIANI

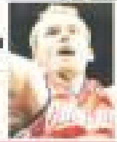
Suicide car bomber kills 13 near Baghdad



WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Mosley claims WBC interim crown /A31

SPORTS

■ Pistons hum smoothly, halt Raptors' win run /A31



Mamiit does it all as RP prevails

Filipinos eliminate Pakistanis in Asia-Oceania tie, zero in on Group I

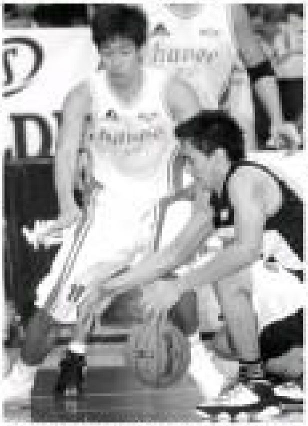
WITH HIS SMALL, BRISK strides, Cecil Mamiit yesterday took the Philippines a step closer to the heady heights of Davis Cup Group I action.



CECIL Mamiit acknowledges the gallery after sweeping Pakistani No. 1 Aqeel Khan and clinching the tie for the RP Cuppers.

Ex-champs take center stage again

By Jasmine W. Payo



RP Seaba stint up at meeting today

Battling Blues outplay Whites; Aguirre steals show



By Jasmine W. Payo

Pacquiao need not hunt for a big foe

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad



St. Scho champs again



SPORTSWATCH

'Bakbakan sa Tagaytay' Part 4 Tuesday

RP Cuppers to grace PSA Forum

SJC 'National Rambulan' draws big field

80 matches up in Makati Valentine derby

Pistons hum smoothly, halt Raptors' win run



AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—RASHEED WALLACE MADE UP for a fourth-quarter technical foul by scoring six points of his season-high 28 points late in the game, helping the Detroit Pistons beat the Toronto Raptors 98-92 on Saturday night.

[illegible]

Mosley claims WBC interim crown



[illegible]

Beckham makes big Real return



BECKHAM

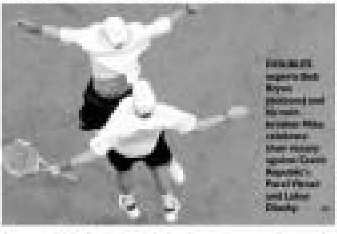
[illegible]

Mickelson, Sutherland share lead



[illegible]

Davis Cup ties go to reverse singles



[illegible]

SPORTS



BAGUIO KING & QUEEN OF ROAD

B'vista, Manipol take 4

Milo Palawan 21K: Tale of two victories



P. Princesa showcases 'gems' in Asian moto kickoff

Santillan tackles Japanese

BUSINESS

BSP pushes sale of $1-B bonds to OFWs

IN THIS ISSUE

- **RP to spend $5.6B** to service debts B2
- **RP tax effort increased** to 14.3% in '06 B16

Move can shift focus from spending to investing

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has urged the national government to offer this year as much as $1 bil-

RP to spend \$5.6B to service debts

By Doris C. Dumlao

Losing from land

NO FREE LUNCH



Cielito F. Habito

Multiplicity

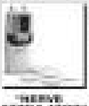
Conflicting titles

Assessments and taxes

Urgent fixes

Eagle Watch

BSP pushes sale of \$1-B bonds to OFWs











RP, China, Vietnam pursue Spratlys project

By Abigail L. Ho

PNOC EXPLORATION Corp. (PNOC-EC), China National Offshore Oil Co. (CNOOC) and Vietnam Oil and Gas Corp. (PetroVietnam) will conduct further seismic studies on an area including the disputed Spratlys after determining that it has good potential to yield hydrocarbons.

Pedro Aquino Jr., officer in charge at PNOC-EC parent Philippine National Oil Co., said that after conducting 2D seismic surveys on the area, the three national oil firms would likely gather 3D seismic data to determine what deposits the area contained.

"We have already identified areas for 3D seismic. Indications of hydrocarbon presence are very strong, but it has yet to be determined whether these deposits are oil or gas," he said.

After analyzing those new data, he said the group would negotiate for another agreement, this time for actual drilling of wells.

But whether or not to conduct actual drilling was still subject to negotiations as the area covered by the tripartite agreement allegedly included some of the Philippines' territorial waters.

The resolution of this issue, should the group agree to conduct drillings in the area, would depend on the Department of Foreign Affairs.

PNOC, CNOOC and PetroVietnam's tripartite agreement covered three years of seismic survey and research over a 143,000-square-kilometer area in the South China Sea, which included the disputed Spratlys.

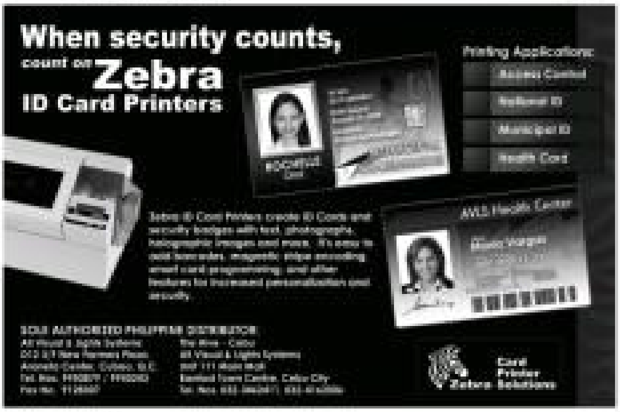
Under the agreement, the three state firms will gather, process and interpret data from the identified area to determine whether or not there are oil and gas reserves there.



Stocks seen to weaken on profit-taking

RP, China ...

GMA-7 spending P1B for studio expansion









Continued buildup of forex reserves urged

IMF says further accumulation of dollars by the BSP is justified given strong inflows

Goings-on

PAL gets IOSA certification

Bancassurance deal

Security Bank wins PDex award

RP, US sign deal on property rights

Must the elderly's problems end at the grave?

Questions of Policies

Horacio C. Genera





ccip CHAMBER OF COSMETICS INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

'Champion the Cause thru Information and Productivity'

The Chamber of Cosmetics Industry of the Philippines (CCIP) will hold its 1st General Membership Meeting this year and its 33rd Induction of Officers today, February 12, 6:00 p.m., Ballroom A, Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The Honorable Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, Secretary of Health, will be CCIP's Guest of Honor and inducting officer.

Established in 1974, the Chamber of Cosmetics Industry of the Philippines, Inc. was formed as the leading cosmetic industry organization with the objective of advocating the values of forging unity among the players of the cosmetic industry in order to promote their collective interests.

As an industry organization, CCIP was able to achieve several milestones such as reduction of government-imposed sales tax on cosmetic products, reclassification of cosmetics as non-luxury items, three-year conversion lead time for the metrication / standardization of package sizes for cosmetic products, formulation of the Cosmetics Regulation Bill when the government finally took notice of the industry's plight and lowered the tariff on raw materials from 50% to 20%. These are just some of the accomplishments of the chamber in the last 33 years.

The theme of the CCIP this year is 'Champion the Cause thru Information and Productivity' and is very appropriate in uplifting the cause of the chamber to further improve the quality and standards of cosmetic products in the Philippines especially with the ASEAN Cosmetics Harmonization taking place soon. The following officers and board members who will be inducted to office by the Honorable Secretary Dr. Francisco T. Duque III, will help advance the cause of the CCIP.

Messages





MESSAGE FROM THE INCOMING PRESIDENT

CCIP Officers


Cecilio K. Pedro *President*


Carole E. Lopena *Immediate Past President*


Rainier B. Villanueva, M.D. *Executive Vice President - Internal Affairs*


Jesiel B Soriano *Executive Vice President - External Affairs*


Tess Keil *Board Secretary*


Carmencita D. Abelardo, *Vice President - Finance*


Atty. Leah L. Sy, *Legal Counsel*


Atty. Lorna E. Filipinas, *Legal Counsel for Regulatory Affairs*

CCIP Board of Directors


Errol B. Pañal *Vice President - Information and Publication Committee*


Roy T. Cumagun *Vice President - Ways and Means Committee*


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Zenaida A. Ponce *Vice President - Regulatory Affairs Committee*


Danilo A. Montenegro *Vice President - Government Affairs Committee*


Carole E. Lopena *Vice President - Industry Affairs Committee*


Jessica J. Piana *Vice President - Livelihood & Outreach Committee*

Dispute impedes dev't of RP property in Japan

Infighting between members of group that won the bid said to cause delay

By Michelle V. Remo

Banks' capital adequacy ratio fell to 18.33% in June 2006

By Doris C. Dumlao

C&P Homes seeks creditors' OK for debt swap



STI'S MOBILE SCHOOL

Scheme to involve $133.5 million worth of floating-rate notes issued in the 1990s

Oleochemicals exports seen increasing by 111% in '07

New team takes over local KPMG subsidiary

People, Events & Products

Philam Plans again overall leader in SEC report



COCA-COLA'S KINETI-KIDS LAUNCHED

Sony Ericsson Bluetooth accessories for Walkman phones





MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL EMPLOYEES ASSIST 'REMING' VICTIMS

Christopher is running!





LECTURE ON ALLERGY

GlobeSolutions turns BOC into SMS-enabled enterprise



Aspac dinner-dance celebrates 20th year

Pasig Catholic College 94th foundation week

Korea connects to the future



INQUIRER SUPPORTS DLSU 'GREENIFICATIONS'



UNITING TOGETHER TO FIGHT HEPA B

Biz Clips

Panasonic 2008 scholars

Tour Baguio City with Engrande

PSLIS, ISIP seminar-workshop

DLSUMC to mark silver jubilee

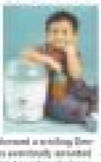
'Balik USTE... Sandaang Sayal!!'

UP Prep Class '63 to hold reunion

MFI accepts applicants for scholarship

JRU active in community development

FILIPINO TYKE WINS AVENT BABY PHOTO CONTEST





UCPB RECEIVES AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FROM BAP

SM HYPERMARKET SHOP & WIN GRAND DRAW





PFD, DOL SIGN AGREEMENT



STRADCOM TIES UP WITH GLOBAL 360

Product Files

Photoline opens at SM Bicutan



Savor the new Mr. Chips Pinoy spaghetti



Paradizoo Theme Farm now open



Fish & Co opens at the Mall of Asia



Dynamite Strawberry Choco Variant



'You'll Love This' in Ministop



JARDINE DISTRIBUTION INC REACHES OUT TO BICOL





SBFI awards 15 scholarship grants



Arellano High '48 launches Golden Heart Awards

Eng Bee Tin's Chinese New Year



NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

GENERAL MANAGER

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Investments in Davao region down 63% in 2006 to ₱2.4B

SMEs seen cashing in on outsourcing trend



PNOC needs just a month to auction Malampaya oil

IMF and Germany upbeat on world economic growth in 2007



Europe playing bigger role in world economy, G7 says

Business Briefs

BMW Group posts strong results in Asia

Convergys to open new facilities

3M acquires filtration firm

US economy seen slowing down in 2007

India's lead needed to restart stalled global trade talks, US official says

BUSINESS

RP tax effort increased to 14.3% in '06



Revenue measures beef up efficiency in tax collection

NTC hopes to settle Globe, consumer group's dispute



BUSINESS Monday

The success story of Metrobank

By George S.K. Ty

Starting the business

Growing the business

Looking beyond



GEORGE TY

INFOTECH

Love bundles

Shower your beau with tech's latest perks this love month



Roll-up USB chess set: Checkmate!

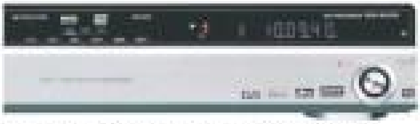


InFusion: Radio anywhere



NeoTune: iPod on your head!

www.rwc.co.jp



Pioneer DVR-940HX-S HDD: Record your whole life



O-Ring Digi: Time is black





Archos Gmini 402 camcorder console: Multimedia giant

www.archos.com



Samsung YP-K3: Slimmest and sleekest

www.samsung.com

Vertu Racetracks: Own the legends



Bon Ice: Light in style



Toshiba Portege R400: Satisfaction guaranteed

www.toshiba.com



Belkin cooling stand: Keep it cool

www.belkin.com

Mobile Tickles your Loveboss this February

Cyber crimes pay as hackers' take estimated to reach $8B

What's Phishing?

What's Phishing?

Avoiding phishing

Smart acquires key to better serve customers

BUSINESS Monday

Change of corporate status

Corporate Securities Info
Raul Palabrica

IN THE NORMAL COURSE OF events, non-stock corporations are supposed to continue operating as such until the purpose for which they were organized is accomplished.

These corporations are formed for charitable, religious, cultural, educational, civic service or other similar purposes.

In keeping with these objectives, the law prohibits non-stock corporations from distributing any part of their income to their members or officers in the form of dividends.

Whatever profits the corporation may earn as an incident to its operation must be used to promote the purpose for which they were organized.

Service to others, not the financial gratification of the members, should be the guiding principle of non-stock corporations.

But, sometimes, people or motives change.

The members of a non-stock corporation could wake up one morning and decide, for one reason or another, to cease operating in the form they earlier planned and convert to a stock corporation.

Change

Terminating the existence of a non-stock corporation is easy. It can be done by simply amending the corporate term stated in the Articles of Incorporation.

Upon approval of the amendment by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the corporation will undergo a liquidation process.

The corporation's assets have to be parceled out strictly in accordance with the distribution plan stated in the Corporation Code.

The officers and members of the corporation cannot partake of any share in the assets under liquidation unless authorized by the Articles of Incorporation or by-laws.

However, converting a non-stock corporation to a stock corporation in one step is a different story. The law does not allow it.

The reason behind the prohibition was explained by the SEC in a letter to a group of farmers who organized themselves into a non-stock corporation that engaged in warehouse and rice milling operations.

Apparently, the capitalist bug had bitten the farmers. They felt their set-up was a hindrance to their ability to expand their operations and enjoy its benefits.

They wanted to convert their organization to a cooperative which has (except for some minor items) all the attributes of a stock corporation.

Like stock corporations, cooperatives are organized to earn profits for their members depending on the amount of their contributions to their capital.

The SEC stated that the Cooperative Code (or Republic Act 6938), the legal framework under which the farmers wanted to re-organize, encourages the formation of cooperatives "to attain increased income and savings and ... promote the equitable distribution of net surplus."

Prohibition

Without impugning the farmers' motives for the proposed conversion, the SEC explained that non-stock corporations hold their funds in trust for carrying out the purposes expressed in their charter or Articles of Incorporation.

Thus, their members are not entitled to any profit that may be obtained out of the income from their operation or other assets of the corporation.

The outright conversion to a cooperative sought by the farmers would, according to the SEC, be "tantamount to distribution of its assets or income to its members inasmuch as after its conversion, the assets of the non-stock corporation may now be treated as contributions of the members of the cooperative."

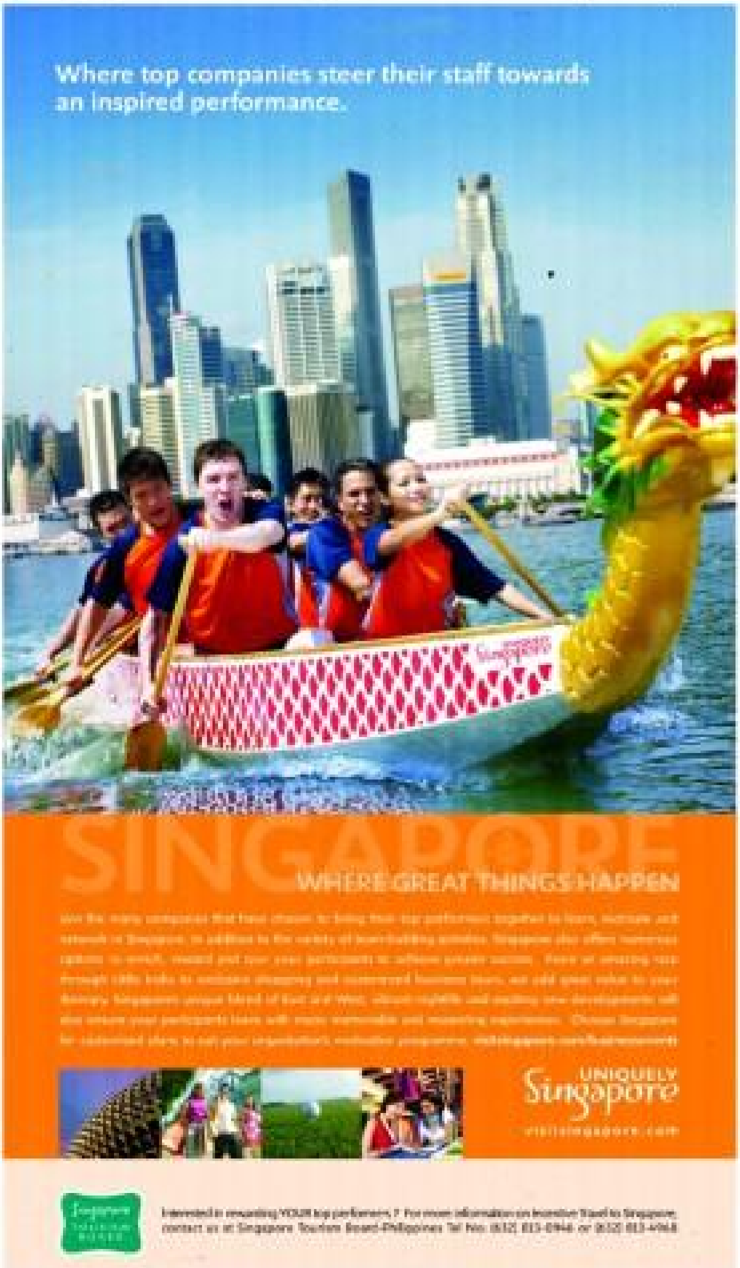
In addition, the SEC noted that "the scheme might defraud the public who may have given gifts or grants to non-stock corporations in order to carry out the purposes for which they are organized since after its conversion the donated assets will now be in the name of the cooperative for the benefit of the members."

Amending the non-stock corporation's Articles of Incorporation to enable it to engage in activities reserved for stock corporations will not cure the defect in the proposed conversion.

To accomplish the farmers' objective without running afoul with the law, the SEC advised them to, first, dissolve their corporation in accordance with the prescribed procedures so its assets can be properly liquidated.

Then, they can organize themselves into a cooperative or stock corporation that will legally allow them to divide among themselves, by way of dividends, the fruits of their collective efforts.

The approach is a little cumbersome, but it's perfectly legal. Indeed, there are several ways of skinning a cat. *(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.)*



The success ...

From page B5-1

ours when the exchange rate was 26 to 1.

This represents my concern for the community and the Filipino people. The foundation's works are a reflection of my gratitude to this country, an expression of appreciation and thanks for all the opportunities opened to me by the Filipino people.

The charities and public services are also a reminder that our hard work, diligence and discipline are not only for the sake of profits but also to share with others and the whole community.

Every time I travel, I am reminded about how fortunate I am to have started out in the Philippines, whose society and people took me in, made my business possible and enabled it to succeed. I consider the Philippines to be the best country for someone like me and for a business like Metrobank, and I am privileged to give back the blessings this country has showered on me.

We can certainly try to do a lot more to make the Philippines a better place for everyone else.

Throughout my career, starting out as a would-be banker to growing the business to where it is today, I have been fortunate to have people who have been constant sources of strength.

First, I wish to thank my family for their steadfast understanding and support these many years. Second, I wish to thank my partners and colleagues in the Metrobank group for their loyalty and excellence on behalf of our common enterprise. And finally, I would like to thank the Filipino people for taking me in and giving me a chance to succeed.

In retrospect, this has been my simple guide: I had to learn self-discipline so I could have a successful business. Through this business, I could then take care of my family and employees.

And finally, the fruits of this successful business could then be shared with the rest of the community. I hope my story can be the story of every businessman in this country.

Opportunities for success and for making social contributions still abound. If this management model can help make my example accessible to others, then perhaps the humble lessons of Metrobank may become an asset even more valuable than its business.

Speech delivered by Metrobank Group chair [illegible] Management Association of the Philippines [illegible] George S.K. Ty during the awarding ceremonies.

(Feedback at [illegible])

LIFESTYLE

Editor: Chelo Banal-Formoso

Subsection Editor: Lito B. Zulueta

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS

Art of the Chinese diaspora



DAMIAN Domingo's "Nuestra Señora del Rosario." Heirs of Jaime V. Ongpin Collection

By Constantino C. Tejero

OF ALL FOREIGNERS WHO came to stay in the country, the ones who proved to be the real friends of the natives were not the Spaniards or the Americans but the Chinese.

So says historian Ambeth Ocampo, who chairs the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, by way of introducing the [illegible] exhibition "Chinese Diaspora: Art Streams from the Mainland" during the [illegible] discussion with the media in the Ayala Museum.

[illegible]

Material culture

[illegible]

ART C3



"CHINITA in Yellow," by Valerie Cavestany

VISUAL ARTS

Baldemor at Galerie Y



Indonesian artist at Ayala

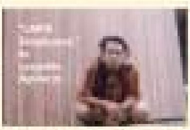


Tapaya at Drawing Room



Bonggo artists in group show



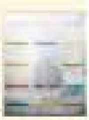


Art lecture at Lopez



Orientals at Shangri-La Plaza

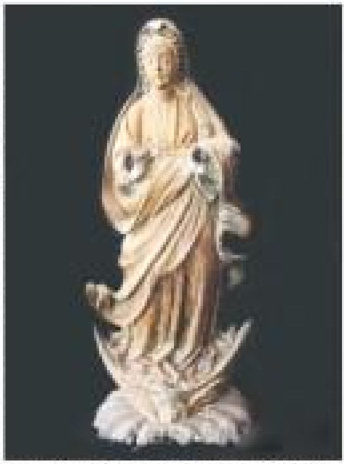
'Measures' at Finale



Art of the Chinese diaspora



Outflow and inflow



Contemporary discourse

'Manila Now' focuses on Asian designs











MATRI dragon
Roberto T. Villanueva Collection

New condo guide



Celebrate with Shows Galore at the Araneta Coliseum

Bask in the romantic shows lined up at the Coliseum with no less than the world's top balladeer, **Cliff Richard**, in his Here and Now 2007 Tour on February 18 and 80s greats **Paul Williams and Dennis Lambert** on Valentine's Day, February 14.

Be enthralled at the **Thrills of Spring** : Grand Acrobatic Show on February 18.

Catch the Showgirl, **Ms. Vina Morales,** in her repeat concert on the 24th at 8:00pm.

Celebrate The Chinese Spring Festival at Araneta Center malls and usher in the Year of the Fire Boar with a big BANG!

- **Chinese Blockbuster Films** in the Araneta Spring Film Festival, Gateway Cineplex 10 – February 15-18
- Shop for authentic Chinese items at the **Gateway Chinese Bazaar,** Level 4 – February 16 - 25
- **Dragon and Lion Dance Performances**
  - Chinese Bazaar, February 16
  - All day, all malls, February 17
- **Asian Cooking Demos** by Center for Culinary Arts, Gateway Chinese Bazaar, level 4, February 17
- **Feng Shui Fundamentals and 2007 Forecast** from World of Feng Shui President, Ms. Marites Allen at 1-5pm, Gateway Chinese Bazaar, level 4, February 18
- Feast your eyes during the **Parade of Beauties** on February 23 with official candidates of the Bb. Pilipinas.



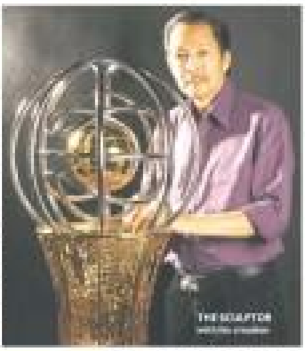
So celebrate at the Araneta Center, the ultimate haven of worldclass shopping, dining and superb entertainment. Together, let's celebrate this romance-filled month while welcoming the Year of the Fire Boar – you can't afford to miss all the revelry. It's the only place to be.





THE 24-K gold-plated PBA Philippine Cup Conference Perpetual Trophy

New Orlina sculpture a trophy in itself



THE SCULPTOR



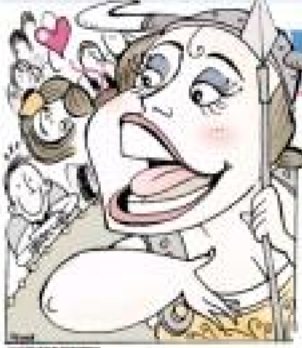
National writers workshop offers fellowships

THE CENTER FOR CREATIVE Writing and Studies of the University of Santo Tomas is accepting manuscripts for the 8th National Writers Workshop to be held on April 29-May 5 in Baguio City.



New books on Cavite culture

STYLE



Wages of love in the performing arts

By Pablo A. Tariman
Contributor

LONG BEFORE I STARTED TO actively cover the performing arts, I saw a film whose absurd highlight I thought could only happen in the movies.

This movie had an outrageous opera scene where the stage set got disentangled before the palo opening which had been matched by a well-dressed ...

I suppressed my amusement at the scene and innocently told myself, "This can only happen in the movies."

SHARE D2

An evening of promise

IN HIS BOOK "BALLERINA," author Edward Stewart calls Ludwig Minkus' ballet compositions "pure Minkus drivel" because of the same throbbing, out-of-theme strings and harp used in more than one of the famed composer's works.

[illegible]



MINKUS Gala opening



DON Quixote pas de deux



CARLOS Garcia in "Le Corsaire"



CARLOS Garcia

Pride

[illegible]

Just raising funds

[illegible]



SILHOUETTE





GRUPO Centro Flamenco

Flamenco fires up Valentine

[illegible]



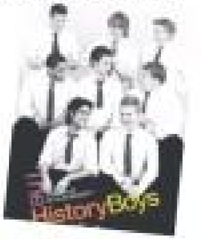
LUCY Torres Gomez

Sudoku smackdown Feb. 17

[illegible]

'History Boys' succeeds as both stage and film


RUSSELL TOVEY, Samuel Anderson, James Corden, Andrew Knott, Dominic Cooper, Samuel Barnett, Jamie Parker and Sacha Dhawan






THE BOYS with their heavyweight counterparts Moore, Griffiths and De la Tour (above left) Richard Griffiths and Stephen Campbell Moore

Refined portrayals

Wages of love in the performing arts

Controversial couple

Artists and biology

Gay and lesbian affairs

Tamayo's program

Alvaro Pierri

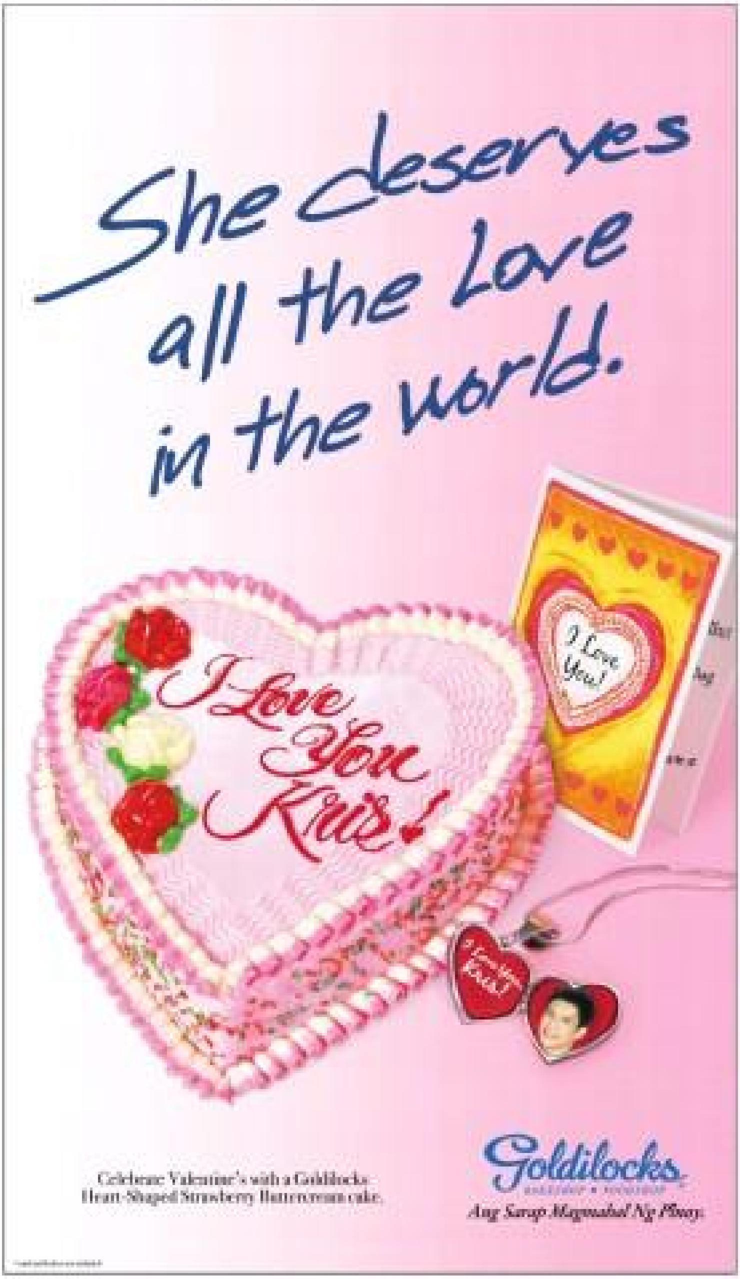
Saga of the campus press

UST Varsitarian marks 80th year with history exhibit

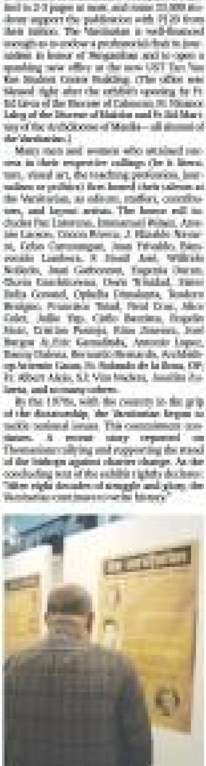








Evolution



LIFESTYLE

Contemporary stories of love, life and inspiration



THE WAKE-UP CALL, IF YOU could call it that, [illegible]

[illegible]

Earthshaking experience

[illegible]

Books for married couples

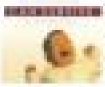


"Love Stuff"

[illegible]

"Your Relationship Can Survive a Newborn"





[illegible]

"Getting Back Together"



[illegible]

'Mistress' guidebook makes a comeback

[illegible]



JULIE Yap-Daza

[illegible]

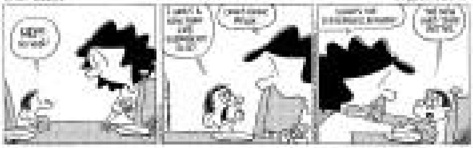
GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS



A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA



BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT



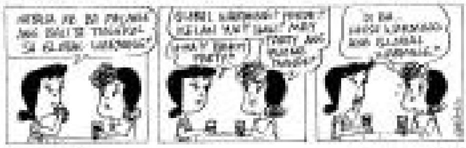
PUGAD BABOY



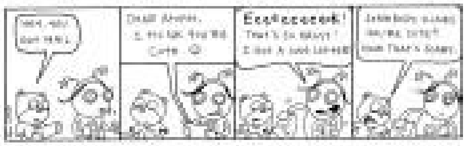
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



LOVEKNOTS



ATOMO AND WEBBY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

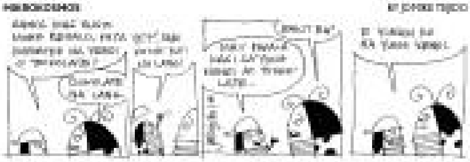


DIVINE COMEDY



NIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA





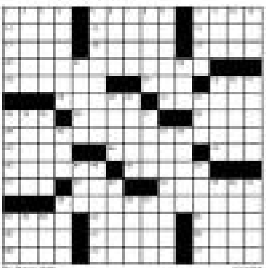
TULDOK

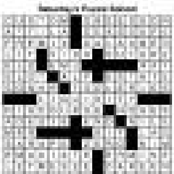


BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

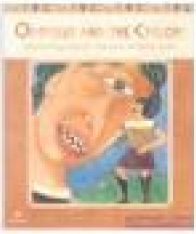
Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

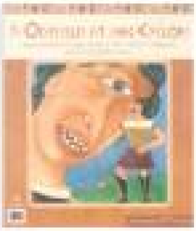
	8					5	3	9
5			8			1		2
					1		6	4
	2			3		7		
			6	1	9			
		5		8			4	
3	5		9					
7		2			5			3
8	4	1					2	

Difficulty Level ★

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

New children's book series reinvents Greek classics





Trivia on myths

More books for married couples

'1001 Questions to Ask Before You Get Married'

'A Kiss Is Still a Kiss'

'Being Married'

'The Seven Levels of Intimacy'



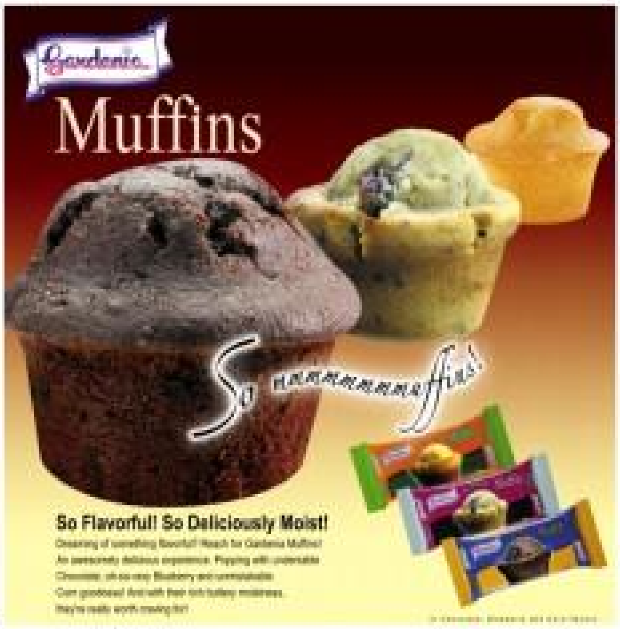
PAINTING by John Santos III

Children's storybook contest launched

Book of Pinoy young-adult fiction released



The muffin has come a long way



Celebrate the Season of Hearts at SM Supermalls

SM Supermalls' love affair with its shoppers has grown stronger through the years. This Valentine season, families visit their neighborhood SM Supermalls and enjoy the many pleasures of shopping and eating out specially lined up for them.

SM Supermalls has fashioned an exciting repertoire of events that celebrate its continuing romance with millions of Filipino mallers. Among the Valentine offerings are dating games, souvenir photo opportunities, Valentine make-over sessions and musical presentations.



Calendar of Events

METRO MANILA

"Three for Love"
A Valentine concert series, featuring the members of the Philippine Opera Company (Karla Gutierrez, Ana Feleo and Hasher Corrales)

SM Megamall	Feb. 12
SM City Manila	Feb. 13
The Block at SM City North Edsa	Feb. 13

"Forever Anaman Amaranan"
A February love affair

The Block at SM City North Edsa	Feb. 12 - 14

Megalucky in Love
Luxurious giveaway items for the celebrants

SM Megamall	Feb. 12 - 16

Celebrate Love with Lani Misalucha
Listen to love songs by Asia's Nightingale

SM Megamall	Feb. 14

Monday Melodies

SM Megamall with Dd Valencia	Feb. 19

Wellness Wednesday
Come for free health and beauty consultation sessions

SM Megamall	Feb. 25

Monday Melodies

SM Megamall with Soulful Mood	Feb. 26

Vanity Fair
A Valentine make-over

SM City Manila	Feb. 12 - 16

"Picture Perfect Moments"
Photo-op for the shoppers

SM City Bicutan	Feb. 12 - 14

PROVINCIAL LUZON

"My & My Valentine"

SM City Dasmariñas	Feb. 12-14

Valentine Dating Game

SM City Lipa	Feb. 13-14
SM City Dasmariñas	Feb. 14

"Love is in the Air"

SM City Clark	Feb. 13 & 15

Pedro Bondoko's Matt Evans & Melissa Ricks

SM City Batangas	Feb. 14

Day of Romance Serenade

SM City Clark	Feb. 14

Valentine Acoustic Soiree

SM City Pampanga	Feb. 14

Sonare String Ensemble

SM City Marilao	Feb. 14

"Especially for You"

SM Supercenter Molino	Feb. 14

Stop, Blue & Fall in Love Valentine Serenade

SM City Pampanga	Feb. 14 - 15

Laugh Your Heart Out

SM City Pampanga	Feb. 17

Love Shots with Nina & Nikki

SM City Sta. Rosa	Feb. 13 & 24

"All Friday Love Chill"

SM City Lipa	Feb. 23

PROVINCIAL VISMIN

VALENTINE CONCERTS

February 14

Nikki Gil	SM City Cebu
Love Hunts	SM City Iloilo
Bossa Nova	SM City Davao
TJ Trinidad	SM City Cagayan de Oro

VALENTINE CONTESTS

Sing and Win: The 2nd Bosom Radio Acoustic Competition

SM City Iloilo	Feb. 12

Campus Radio Mother Apple Contest Valentine Dating Game

SM City Cagayan de Oro	Feb. 15

ENTERTAINMENT





VINA MORALES

Women of 'Flor'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.



EULA VALDEZ

Stars' amorous antics recalled

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



Commercial union

'Stop the Clocks'

'I like Idi Amin, I do'

TAKE FIVE



Women of 'Flor'

From page F1



"ZOANDA"

CHEER FACTOR

LOS ANGELES—HAND-DRAWN ANIMATION, out of fashion in the computer age, experienced a rescue worthy of a fairy tale last week, when Walt Disney animators announced they would bring back the art form to the big screen. "We will be bringing back hand-drawn (two dimensional) films," said Disney's Ed Catmull, the president of Pixar and Disney Feature Animation. Animators refer to hand-drawn animation as "two dimensional," as opposed to computer-generated animation, referred to as 3D.

Reuters



"BLOOD DIAMOND"

Int'l film season begins . . .

From page F4

heartedly recommend "[illegible]" to starters—see if you're not hooked.

Intelligent Filipino moviegoers are understandably in a quandary when movie-industry people appeal to their sense of nationalism and offer them mostly trashy movies.

No quarrel

It is forgivable of the worst kind when they force you to swallow the line "Support Filipino movies" and then feed you with garbage.

Illiterate movies corrupt. They have no place in a literate film culture.

We would rather watch intelligent foreign films than support local trash—and who's going to quarrel with that?

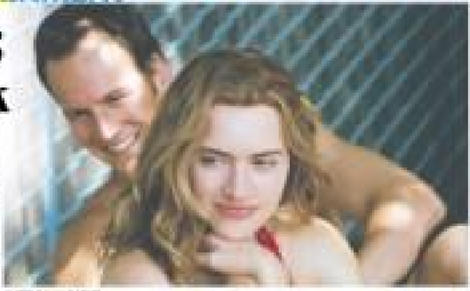
Int'l film season begins; Chinese treats this week

By Constantino C. Tejero

[illegible]

Worthwhile

[illegible]



"LITTLE CHILDREN"

illiterate movies corrupt. They have no place in a literate film culture.



"HOLLYWOODLAND"

[illegible]

For kids

[illegible]

Hot brew

[illegible]

INT'L F1

ENTERTAINMENT



While sales slide, stars set to party at Grammys

Each day brings more bad news for the $21B industry, which can't work out how to get fans to pay $18 for a CD instead of stealing music from the Web



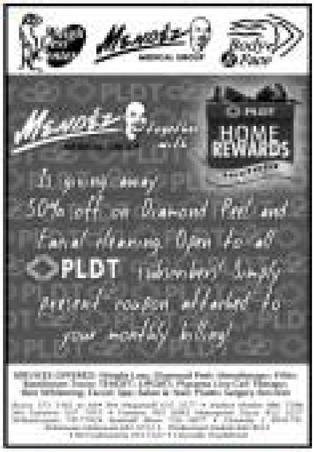
JOHN MAYER

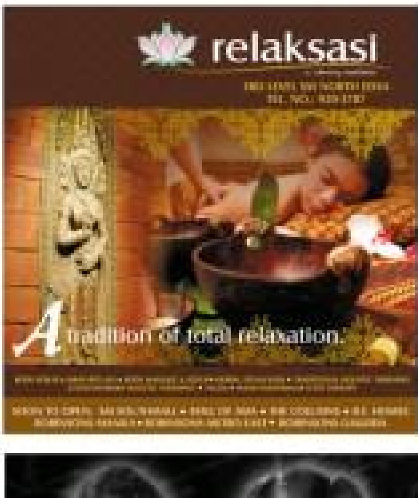
Worse than expected



RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS

Neil Young's first









A race lost to 'American Idol'

Did You Know...

The prize: Stage spot with Timberlake

Three finalists



Mind-whirling

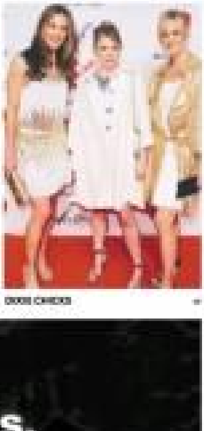




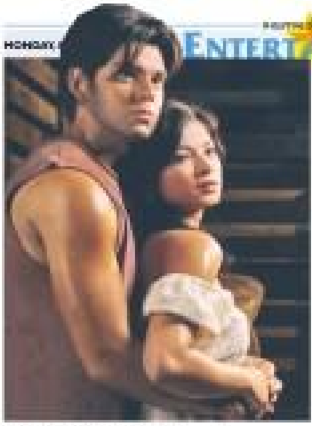




While sales slide, stars ...







RICHARD Gutierrez and Angel Locsin in "The Promise"

He's determined to take a two-week break soon, flying to the US, no less





Richard says he'd rather be 'normal'

By Nini Valera

[illegible]

Flying away

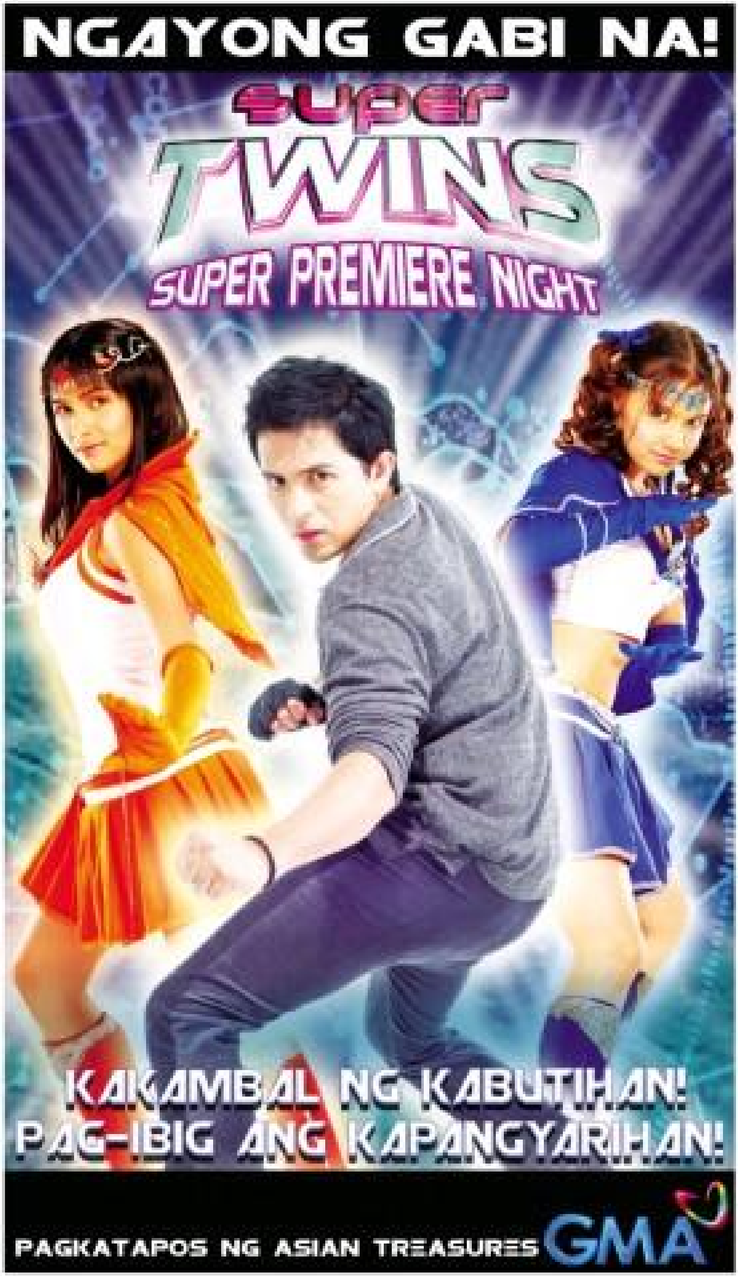
[illegible]

Matinee idol

[illegible]

With respect

[illegible]



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ROUNDUP

'Inang Yaya' sweep

THE YOUNG CRITICS CIRCLE, AN ORGANIZATION COMPOSED OF academics and critics, has declared Unitel Pictures' "Inang Yaya" as the Best Picture winner for 2006.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

'Bakekang' tops survey



SUNSHINE Dizon and Carlo Caparas

'World's Untold Stories'



"A TALE OF TWO WOMEN"

Filmmaking workshop

'Dreamgirls' events



"DREAMGIRLS"

New host

'Indie o Hindi' symposium

War of the Chrysanthemums

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

Review

Familial dysfunction

Darkly comic



JAY Chou as Prince Jie, Gong Li as the Empress and Chow Yun Fat as the Emperor

Plowing fertile familiar ground

Review

The family

Attractive but unsmiling woman with a sullen look



RUSHES



ANNA Nicole Smith, left, and when she was Nikki Hart, above.

Another paternity claim

Exactly what charges?



RYAN O'NEAL

Polanski on Pompeii

That's my name!



"Borat 2" on ice

"Lost" to X-ray